Advanced Search Tips

Search queries are not case-sensitive.

To search across all fields, do not specify a field name.

Field names must be spelled correctly, including hyphens.

To field search, type the field name, a space, and the search term enclosed in parentheses.
For example: **keywords (*neurotoxin*)**
finds all articles which contain *neurotoxin* as an author keyword or index term

The following data fields (or segments) can be searched in ScienceDirect:

Abstract – *full text of the article's abstract*

Title - *both English & non-English article titles*

Keywords - *author keywords & publisher's index terms*

Authors - *names of all authors, including collaborations*

Affiliation - *the institutional affiliation of the article's author*

Appendices - *material appended to the end of an article*

Full-Text - *any words in the full text of an article excluding reference list*

ISSN - *International Standard Serial Number of journal*

Journal-Name - *title of the source journal*

References - *contains the bibliographic reference list of the document*

Enhanced Search Syntax

Boolean Logic (***and, or, and not***)

! **= Truncation Wildcard -** Finds a root word plus all the words made by adding letters to the end of it.
Example: *Behav!* Finds *behave, behavior, behaviour*

* **= Character Space Holder -** Replaces a character anywhere in a word, except the first character.
Example: *Wom*n* finds *woman and women*
You can also use * to hold a space for variations in spelling*, e.g. Bernst**n*

Proximity Connectors - Used to specify how close search terms can be to one another

w/nn can be used to specify the number of words between search terms. *w* represents within and *nn* represents a number from 1 – 255.
Example: *pain w/5 morphine (pain* within 5 words of *morphine)*

To find words in the same phrase, use *w/3*, *w/4* or *w/5*
To find terms in the same sentence, use *w/15*
To find terms in the same paragraph, use *w/50*

not w/nn finds articles where the first word appears, and the second word may appear, but not within the specified number of words.
Example: *tumor NOT w/2 malignant (tumor* not within two words of *malignant)*

pre/n finds two words when the first word must precede the second by a specified number of words.
Example: *neonatal pre/3 screening (neonatal* at least 3 words before *screening)*

w/seg finds searches that appear in the same field (Title, Keywords, Affiliation, etc.).
Example: *lesion w/seg pancreatic (lesion* must be in the same field segment as *pancreatic)*

Author Searching

Author names appear in our service in a variety of formats, according to the source document.

The order of surname and forename may differ.
Example: to find articles by *R Smith* and *Smith, R,* use a proximity connector: *smith W/1 r*

The presentation of multiple initials may differ.
Example: *rj smith* finds *RJ Smith* but not *R.J. Smith* (with periods) and *R J Smith* (with spaces). To find all possibilities, use an or connector: *rj smith OR r j smith*

Note: The system interprets the periods in initials as blank spaces.

A name may be given with or without middle initials.
Example: to find articles by *Raymond Smith, Raymond J. Smith* and *Raymond J. A. Smith* use a proximity connector: *raymond W/3 smith*

First names may be given in full.
Example: to find articles by *R. Smith, Ray Smith,* and *Raymond Smith*, use a wildcard character: *r! smith*

To account for all the possible combinations of name presentation, we recommend a combination of techniques.
Example: *smith W/3 r!* finds all of the above examples.

Singular Word Form

Using the singular word form will retrieve the singular, plural, and possessive forms of most words.
Example: *city* finds *city, cities, city's,* and *cities'*

Stop Words

The ScienceDirect system does not search for stop words. Stop words include:

Most articles (*the*, *an*, etc.)
Personal pronouns (*he, she, we, they*, etc.)
Most forms of the verb "to be" (*be, is, was*, etc.)
Some conjunctions (*as, because, if, when*, etc.)

Special Characters and Formula Searching

Search the Greek alphabet by replacing the characters with the English spelling for the character. *(E.g., Kappa)*

Subscripted and superscripted characters should be entered on the same line with the other characters. *(E.g., H20)*

Accented characters should be entered as the same characters without the accent mark. *(E.g., Furst)*

Certain non-alpha/numeric special characters (e.g., hyphens, brackets, asterisks, bullets, arrows, daggers, plus signs, minus signs, etc.) are treated as delimiters and are not searchable. *(E.g., high risk, without hyphen)*

Prioritizing Search Terms

When you use more than one connector (or proximity operator) in a search request, the connectors operate in the following order:

1. OR	3. PRE/nn	5. W/SEG	7. AND
2. W/nn	4. NOT W/nn	6. NOT W/SEG	8. AND NOT